GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3270
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
AMENDMENT IN SEED LAWS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend seed laws to provide for the establishment of a National Seeds Board and compulsory registration of different varieties;

(b) if so,the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): There is a provision under the Seeds Bill, 2004 for compulsory registration of crop/varieties, which are indented to be sold in the market. The powers of registration will be vested in an Authority called Central Seed Committee. However, there is no provision to set up a National Seeds Board.

(c): The farmers will have the right to save, use, exchange, share or sell seed without registration. However, the farmers will benefit from registration of different varieties as under:-

(i) Regulation of seeds and planting materials of all agricultural, horticultural, plantations crops etc. will ensure availability of true to type seeds to the farmers;

(ii) Registration requires lebeling of expected performance of seeds. The farmers will be assured of quality of seeds purchased by them;

(iii) In case the seed fails to provide the expected performance, the farmers can claim compensation;

(iv) Registration will help to check sale of spurious and poor quality seeds;

(v) Registration will facilitate import and export of seeds and planting materials by ensuring quality.